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in: Canon Expansions, Witcher190, Monsters, Relicts

Kelpie

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This fan-fiction article, **Kelpie**, was written by [Witcher190](#). Please do not edit this fiction without the writer's permission.

Contents

[hide]

1. Physiology

2. Abilities

3. Behaviors

4. Slaying

4.1. Preparation

4.2. Equipment

4.3. Combat Strategy

4.3.1. Luring the Kelpie

4.3.2. Engagement

4.3.3. Finishing Blow

4.4. Aftermath

4.4.1. Disposal

4.4.2. Harvesting

5. Image Credits

6. Trivia

Kelpie

Taxonomy

Classification

Relicts until the Second Conjunction of the Spheres

Species

Kelpie

Subspecies

Fabiolan Kelpie
Silk Kelpie
Lunar Kelpie
Tropical Kelpie

Physiology

Height

2 meters

Ecology

Lifespan

Unknown

Intelligence

Sentient (Elder Kelpies)

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Nature	Aggressive
Range	Bodies of waters of The Continent and Western Continent
Habitat	Different bodies of water
Diet	Carnivorous
Prey	All kinds of creatures
Predators	Ocasionaly, a Selkie Maw can swallow a kelpie, since they can be confused with a high concentration of placton by this creatures



Physiology

In their natural form, kelpies resemble a pile of seaweed interwoven with numerous, sinewy tentacles. These tentacles, often mistaken for strands of the giant algae known as kelp, are incredibly strong and flexible, allowing the kelpie to manipulate them with great dexterity. The tentacles are used for a variety of purposes, including locomotion, capturing prey, and interacting with their environment.

The body of a kelpie is covered in a slimy, mucilaginous layer that helps it blend seamlessly into its aquatic surroundings, making it difficult to distinguish from ordinary underwater vegetation. This slimy coating also serves as a protective barrier, preventing desiccation and shielding the creature from potential threats and parasites.



A Elder Kelpie in its shapeshifting process to become a horse

Kelpies possess a rudimentary sensory system, with clusters of primitive eyes scattered across their bodies. These eyes are capable of detecting changes in light and movement, aiding the kelpie in locating prey and avoiding danger. Additionally, their tentacles are lined with sensitive receptors that can detect vibrations and chemical changes in the water, further enhancing their ability to hunt and navigate their environment.

Internally, kelpies have a simple yet efficient digestive system. Their tentacles are equipped with tiny, sharp spines that inject digestive enzymes into their prey, beginning the process of breaking down the victim's tissues even before consumption. Once the prey is subdued, the kelpie uses its tentacles to draw the partially digested matter into its central body cavity, where it is further broken down and absorbed.

Kelpies have a decentralized nervous system, with nerve clusters distributed throughout their bodies rather than a central brain. This allows them to react quickly to stimuli and continue functioning even if parts of their bodies are damaged. This decentralized system is particularly advantageous for an organism that relies on multiple appendages for survival.

Abilities



As already mentioned, the older specimens of kelpies possess the ability to shapeshift into one of three forms: a horse, a woman, or a dolphin, allowing the kelpie to adapt to different environments and hunting strategies. But in addition to shapeshifting, kelpies possess several other abilities that aid in their survival and predatory behavior.

- **Camouflage:** In their natural form, kelpies are adept at blending into their surroundings, resembling a pile of seaweed or aquatic plants. This camouflage allows them to ambush prey and avoid detection by potential threats.
- **Tentacle Strength and Dexterity:** The tentacles of a kelpie are extremely strong and flexible, capable of capturing and restraining prey with ease. The tentacles are also sensitive to vibrations and chemical changes in the water, helping the kelpie detect the presence of prey or danger.
- **Regeneration:** Kelpies have the ability to regenerate damaged or lost tentacles. This regenerative capability ensures that they remain effective hunters even after sustaining injuries.
- **Toxin Secretion:** Some reports suggest that kelpies can secrete a mild toxin through their tentacles, which can immobilize or weaken their prey, making it easier to capture and consume them.

Behaviors



Similar to vampires such as the katakans, the oldest specimens of kelpies possess some degree of awareness, although perhaps somewhat less. This awareness allows them to exhibit cunning and strategic behavior when hunting and evading threats. According to the reports, if the prey is sentient, they have been able to communicate with it in a broken form of the prey's language, similar to how trolls communicate with others races.

Kelpies inhabit various bodies of water, but they are most abundant in lakes, rivers and cold waters, such as those of the North Sea. Their preferred habitats provide them with ample opportunities to ambush prey and remain hidden from potential predators. However, during the early 15th century new subspecies of kelpies were reported by witchers of the [School of the Crane](#) in the rivers and seas of the [Western Continent](#) with the most notorious being the Silk Kelpie followed by the Fabiolan Kelpie, the Lunar Kelpie and the Tropical Kelpie.

Carnivorous by nature, kelpies drag their victims into the water, devour them, and discard their entrails at the water's edge. If they hunt in the open sea, they leave the entrails floating in currents that carry them to the shore. This grisly feeding habit not only nourishes the kelpie but also serves as a method of territory marking and deterrence to other creatures.

Kelpies feed on all kinds of creatures, from merpeople to [vodyanoy](#), including humans. Their diet is diverse, which makes them formidable predators in their aquatic ecosystems. The ability to consume a wide range of prey ensures their survival in various conditions and locations.

In their natural form, kelpies are approximately 2 meters tall and 3 meters wide. Despite their size, they are slow creatures. However, this is compensated for by

their powerful tentacles, which they use to capture and subdue prey. The older specimens have an additional advantage: the ability to change shape. This shapeshifting ability allows them to assume the forms of a horse, dolphin, or woman, which they use to lure unsuspecting victims closer. The transformation can be both physical and illusionary, enabling them to blend seamlessly into their surroundings or trick prey into a false sense of security.

Kelpies are solitary creatures, rarely seen in groups. Their solitary nature is likely due to their territorial behavior and the need for large hunting grounds to sustain their voracious appetites. When two kelpies encounter each other, it often leads to aggressive displays or even violent confrontations to establish dominance and control over prime hunting areas.

Reproduction among kelpies is shrouded in mystery. It is believed that they reproduce asexually, with new kelpies budding from the parent organism. This process likely occurs in deep, secluded parts of their aquatic habitats, far from prying eyes. The young kelpies are thought to be fully formed and self-sufficient from birth, quickly dispersing to find their own territories.

Slaying

Slaying a kelpie is a task that requires skill, strategy, and the right equipment. While a witcher's body, even without the use of the [Golden Oriole](#) elixir, can resist the kelpie's reported toxin to some extent, the aquatic environment in which these monsters reside presents challenges. Kelpies are most vulnerable when they are out of the water or in shallow areas, making it essential for a witcher to draw the creature into such conditions for an effective kill.

Preparation

- **Knowledge of Habitat:** Understanding the habitat and behaviors of the kelpie is crucial. Kelpies prefer cold waters, lakes, and rivers, often hiding among seaweed and other aquatic vegetation. Witchers should scout the area to identify likely ambush spots and avoid being surprised by the monster.

Equipment

- **Silver Sword:** As with many monsters, a silver sword is essential due to its effectiveness against them.
- **Volun Sign:** The Volun Sign is particularly effective against kelpies. This sign releases a soft plasma bolt from the witcher's fingertips, which can be intensified by the water to paralyze the kelpie. This temporary paralysis provides a crucial window to deliver a killing blow.
- **Protective Gear:** Wearing gear that enhances resistance to toxins and physical damage can help mitigate the risks posed by the kelpie's tentacles and toxic secretions.

Combat Strategy

Luring the Kelpie

- **Bait:** Using bait such as small animals or fish can draw the kelpie out of its hiding place. Position the bait in shallow water or near the shore to force the kelpie into a more vulnerable position.

Engagement

- **Volun Sign:** Initiate the attack with the Volun Sign to paralyze the kelpie. Aim to hit the monster in the water to maximize the sign's effect. The water conducts the electrical energy, amplifying the paralysis.
- **Silver Sword:** Once the kelpie is paralyzed, move in quickly with the silver sword. Target the central body cavity, where vital organs are likely concentrated. Quick, decisive strikes are necessary to prevent the kelpie from recovering and counterattacking.

- **Tentacle Defense:** Be prepared to fend off the kelpie's tentacles. Even in a paralyzed state, reflexive movements can pose a threat. Use the sword to sever any tentacles that get too close.

Finishing Blow

- **Precision:** Ensure the kelpie is incapacitated before delivering the final blow. Strike at the nerve clusters distributed throughout its body to cause maximum damage and ensure the creature cannot regenerate its tentacles or retaliate.

Aftermath

Disposal

- **Entrails:** Kelpies are known to leave the entrails of their prey at the water's edge. Ensure that the kelpie's remains are disposed of properly to prevent other predators from being attracted to the area.

Harvesting

- **Toxins and Tentacles:** Parts of the kelpie, such as its tentacles and toxic secretions, can be valuable alchemical ingredients. Harvest these components for later use in potions and poisons.

Image Credits

- *Kelpie Gwent Card Art* by Renata Mrowińska.

Trivia

- It is rumored that in some places on the coasts of the **Far North**, are worshipped as gods.
- This monster came into the world after the **Conjunction of the Spheres**. It comes from the world where King Arthur reigns. Same world that **Ciri** visited during her travels through time and space.
- **Kelpies** are best known in real world from Celtic folklore.
- Kelpa is the name given to the monster in the Spanish translation of The Witcher Books.

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